

## **SOUTHWEST**

### **Individual Ideas From Evaluations**

- Using education as a workforce economic engine.
- List of companies looking to relocate, would help us to select good potential businesses for our area.
- Use state sonet ring-WISCNET- Teach Wisconsin – D&D infrastructure to help start up virtual businesses in rural Wisconsin (SW WI). New on-line/E-Businesses – current businesses to go on-line and increase business world-wide.
- Develop regional investment strategies to fund one project in each sub-regional (say 24 zones) over a five year period. Similar to Oregon program. Funding usually 1-5 million per project.
- Change TIF legislation so that it focuses on living wage – plus jobs creation and/or business expansion – not big box retail, fast food, and convenience gas stations. (Has been done by Michigan). Insurance for healthcare for small business owners and their employees to encourage/support growth in this sector.
- Help all older people live their lives to the best they can. Get this type information to ALL Area Leaders.
- Totally restructure the way we deliver K-12 education. There is no longer a need for centralized schools. Deliver education locally. Stop building new schools.
- Helping to make our communities more attractive – (“beautify our communities” is on our list, but one of the top ten) – we could use more aesthetically pleasing communities, perhaps using the Minnesota Design Team approach (visit their web site).
- Develop Agricultural Research Incubator/Center at UW-Platteville. Work to attract large, family-oriented tourism property to region.
- Upgrade skills for existing workers. Increase support for manufacturing extension – WMEP/NWMA. Incentives for existing small and mid-sized manufacturers.
- Have closer observation with Home Schooling.
- Revisit state tax structure and consider more user tax.
- TIF district for housing – reasonably priced housing will attract people – more workers for companies, kids for schools, tax dollars for communities, maintain or increase population (population that is aging) – positive impact on keeping health services and retail in communities also.
- Does not allow our primary education in public schools to fall into disfavor with our own population. Respect for how our children learn will allow us to grow. Without that respect, we will fail.
- Be aggressive.
- Reduced tuition for college students that commit to staying in state.
- Raise the state minimum wage. Regulate hospital rates and/or healthcare costs. Introduce teaching of labor history into our public schools. (Future employee-empowerment).
- Simply put, we need to locate businesses or develop businesses that employ our college grads. They are leaving because the jobs are not here.
- Renewable energy development/import substitution. Capitol gain/estate tax revisions (RE: Sale of business). Tax credit for intellectual property development

and protection. Industrial crop development research, conversion. (Related to first sentence).

- Goal for 2003 SW Build WI workshop – make it available via ten plus video conference locations throughout the region.
- The dedication of the “State” to implement a program.
- If we are losing youth to other states – why aren’t we marketing to them reasons why they stay in the state? We give scholarships to students – shouldn’t they be required to stay in the state to work? I especially like the idea of getting schools, teachers, students involved in the community. If we have so much of one population reaching retirement, why not capitalize on it. Retirement communities, community volunteers, SCORE Chapters (Grant County doesn’t have one), E-Business, etc.
- The State should evaluate all programs – programs that show a strong investment in Wisconsin should garner additional resources. Additionally, geographical location may not be the best way to identify regions. Looking for economic commonalities would be a better strategy for economic development. For example, the strong agricultural base of the southern counties has little in common with the trends and business strengths of the north.